

### Amendments to the Claims

**1. (Original)** A solid polymer electrolyte fuel battery cell comprising a solid polymer electrolyte membrane, a fuel electrode and an oxidant electrode, the both electrodes being disposed on both sides of the membrane, and a pair of current collectors disposed outside the electrodes, wherein a water-retaining material comprising fibers at least the surface layer of which contains a metal oxide is combined and integrated with at least the fuel electrode among the solid polymer electrolyte membrane, the fuel electrode and the oxidant electrode.

**2. (Original)** The solid polymer electrolyte fuel battery cell according to claim 1, wherein the water-retaining material is in the form of fiber cloth.

**3. (Original)** The solid polymer electrolyte fuel battery cell according to claim 2, wherein the fiber cloth comprises fibers having an average diameter of 0.10 to 100  $\mu\text{m}$  and is a woven or nonwoven fabric having a basis weight of 1.0 to 300g /m<sup>2</sup> and a thickness of 20 to 1000  $\mu\text{m}$ .

**4. (Currently amended)** The solid polymer electrolyte fuel battery cell according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 3~~ claim 1, wherein the water-retaining material is combined and integrated with all of the solid polymer electrolyte membrane, the fuel electrode and the oxidant electrode.

**5. (Currently amended)** The solid polymer electrolyte fuel battery cell according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 3~~ claim 1, wherein the water-retaining material is combined and integrated with both of the fuel electrode and the oxidant electrode.

**6. (Original)** The solid polymer electrolyte fuel battery cell according to claim 5, wherein a water-retaining material combined and integrated within the fuel electrode and a water-retaining material combined and integrated with the oxidant electrode are connected to each other outside the edge of the solid polymer electrolyte membrane.

**7. (Original)** A fuel battery using the solid polymer electrolyte fuel battery cell according to claim 1.

**8. (Original)** A water-retaining material for solid polymer electrolyte fuel battery cells, which comprises a woven fabric at least the surface layer of which contains a metal oxide.

**9. (New)** The solid polymer electrolyte fuel battery cell according to claim 2, wherein the water-retaining material is combined and integrated with all of the solid polymer electrolyte membrane, the fuel electrode and the oxidant electrode.

**10. (New)** The solid polymer electrolyte fuel battery cell according to claim 3, wherein the water-retaining material is combined and integrated with all of the solid polymer electrolyte membrane, the fuel electrode and the oxidant electrode.

**11. (New)** The solid polymer electrolyte fuel battery cell according to claim 2, wherein the water-retaining material is combined and integrated with both of the fuel electrode and the oxidant electrode.

**12. (New)** The solid polymer electrolyte fuel battery cell according to claim 3, wherein the water-retaining material is combined and integrated with both of the fuel electrode and the oxidant electrode.

**13. (New)** The solid polymer electrolyte fuel battery cell according to claim 2, wherein a water-retaining material combined and integrated within the fuel electrode and a water-retaining material combined and integrated with the oxidant electrode are connected to each other outside the edge of the solid polymer electrolyte membrane.

**14. (New)** The solid polymer electrolyte fuel battery cell according to claim 3, wherein a water-retaining material combined and integrated within the fuel electrode and a water-retaining material combined and integrated with the oxidant electrode are connected to each other outside the edge of the solid polymer electrolyte membrane.